

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 10-29 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1-9 are cancelled, and claims 10-29 are added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Formal Matters

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Because claims 1-9 have been cancelled, this rejection is moot. In addition, Applicants note that new claims 10-29 have been specifically drafted to address the Examiner's comments with respect to the rejection under §112. Accordingly, it is believed that new claims 10-29 are acceptable under §112.

II. Art Rejections

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Massa (U.S. Patent No. 2,702,260). The Office Action also rejects claims 2-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Massa, in view of Nicholls (U.S. Patent No. 5,653,860) or Ishibashi (U.S. Patent No. 3,933,601). Because claims 1-9 have been cancelled, these rejections are moot.

III. New Claims 10-29

New independent claims 10 and 20 are both directed to an electroplating apparatus. Claims 11-19 depend from claim 10, and claims 21-29 depend from claim 20.

New claims 10 and 20 both recite a controller which is configured to activate a sonic wave generator during a cleaning cycle to cause contaminants to be removed from surfaces of a plated body. Independent claims 10 and 20 also recite that the controller is configured to activate a power supply to cause an electroplating operation to be performed after the cleaning cycle has been completed.

Neither Massa, Nicholls, Ishibahsi, or any of the other references or record disclose or suggest an electroplating apparatus in which a sonic wave generator is first activated to conduct a cleaning cycle, and wherein a power supply is then switched on to cause an electroplating operation to be performed. Applicants specifically direct the Examiner's attention to the reasons for allowance in the parent application (Application Serial No. 09/396,202; now U.S. Patent No. 6,372,116). The reasons for allowance indicated that an electroplating apparatus as recited in claims 10 and 20 was not disclosed by the art of record, nor would such an apparatus be obvious in view of the devices disclosed in the prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 10-29 are allowable.

Serial No. 10/090,753
Amdt. dated March 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 29, 2003

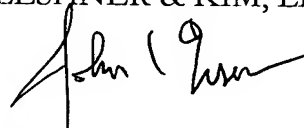
Docket No. HME/D-005A

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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